

Whitchurch Parish Council

Clerk to the Council – Mr. Tony Skeggs

Minutes of the Meeting of Whitchurch Parish Council held at the St Johns Hall

On Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs C Lincoln (Chair), P Alderman, S Ford, R Grimes, M Palin, and M Perry.

Public Attendance: 2 members of the public, plus Buckinghamshire Council Cllr A Bond.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

24/26	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Thomas. BC Cllr D Blamires also gave her apologies.</p>
	<p>Open Forum for Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manhole cover on the pavement at the end of Ashgrove Gardens has sunk.• The sand path needed sweeping.• The RoW at the end of Post Office Lane had been moved without consultation. <i>The clerk was waiting a reply from the RoW team.</i>• The Bucks Cllrs reported that the outstanding mitigation works on the High Street had been scheduled for completion in March. The 2024/25 BC budget had been agreed with a further £5m allocated to roads and paths. There was a major shortage of foster parents with over 400 children in care.
24/27	<p>Members' Interests: Members were invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Whitchurch Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. No new declarations raised.</p>
24/28	<p>Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 12th February 2024, were approved, and signed by the Chair.</p>
24/29	<p>Current Projects Update</p> <p>a) Benches – It is hoped that the refurbishment of the metal benches would start after Easter once the weather dries up. An application to the community board was needed before the 31st March.</p> <p>b) Location of Bell – Three possible sites at the school had been identified. It was suggested that a site outside the school grounds be considered so the bell was more visible to the residents. The cost to refurbish the bell so that it could be rung was £1,700. It was proposed by Cllr Lincoln, seconded by Cllr Perry, that a grant application be made to the community board and that the Parish Council makes £1,000 available to enable work on the refurbishment to begin. This was unanimously AGREED.</p>
24/30	<p>Recreation Ground</p> <p>Cllr Ford reported back on the suggestions that had been received for improvements to the recreation ground. The suggestions were for a path around the recreation ground, nets for</p>

Whitchurch Parish Council

	<p>the goalposts, an accessible cradle swing and a table tennis table. The cost of a path made it unaffordable whilst the cradle swing and table tennis table would both require a solid surface as there was no suitable space available. Costs for these items ranged from £500 to £4,000. It was AGREED that several fully costed options be brought to the April meeting to enable a decision to be made.</p>
24/31	<p>Speed Awareness After consideration it was felt that the use of speed awareness stickers for wheelie bins should be considered as part of the overall speed awareness initiative.</p>
24/32	<p>Best Kept Village Competition After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Lincoln, seconded by Cllr Perry, that the Parish Council enter the competition in 2024. This was AGREED.</p>
24/33	<p>Street Lighting The clerk reported that he had received only one quote, despite chasing the other contractors, to convert the lights to LEDs. Before a decision was made, it was suggested that the Clerk contact Oving PC as they had recently converted their streetlights.</p>
24/34	<p>Finance a) The list of payments for March were APPROVED, details at the end of the minutes. b) The combined bank account position at the 29th February was NOTED. It was suggested that the two deposit accounts be combined.</p>
24/35	<p>Neighbourhood Plan The Chair reported that the working group had been working on a map of green assets that had been required by the Inspector.</p>
24/36	<p>Planning – The following applications were considered by the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/00145/APP – Land Adjacent to Bushmead Road – Erection of a New Dwelling. The application had been considered before but there were no obvious changes, so it was AGREED that the clerk contact the planning officer to determine the basis for the application. • 24/00219/ALB – 2 Oving Road – Replacement of External Render on Front and East Elevation (Retrospective). No Objections were raised to this application.
24/37	<p>Points of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media Webinar – Cllr Grimes reported on the webinar, that was also attended by the Chair and the Clerk. The key points were on how convey a message, targeting groups, use of videos, and having a social media policy. • Community Board Administrator – The Chair had walked the village with the interim administrator, Michelle Parker, updating her on the current projects.

Whitchurch Parish Council

24/38	Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting would be on Monday 8 th April 2024 starting @ 7.30pm.
-------	---

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Chair's Signature Date.....

Actions List

Minute	Action Required	Action By	Progress
23/20	Investigate Christmas lights in the High Street.	Clerk	In Progress
23/90	Order three benches with Kings Coronation emblem.	Clerk	On Hold
Forum	Investigate MVAS pole and socket on High Street	Cllr PA/CT	In Progress
24/29	Make application to community board for school bell.	Clerk	Completed
24/30	Costed options for new equipment to April meeting.	Cllr Ford	In Progress
24/33	Contact Oving PC for street light contractor.	Clerk	Completed

BANK RECONCILIATION

Reconciled Bank Balance At	Account	Bank Balance	Total
5 th March 2024	Current Account	£11,534.41	
29 th February 2024	Deposit Account	£56,813.17	
29 th February 2024	Investment Account	£30,403.89	£98,751.47

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE LISTING

Income	£
Lloyds Bank – Interest in February.	£62.66
Salvation Army – Clothes Bank for January.	£23.22
TOTAL INCOME SINCE THE LAST MEETING IN FEBRUARY	£85.88

Expenditure	Payment	£
Invoices to be approved at Parish Council meeting.		
Buckland Landscapes (72) – February Verges Grass Cutting.	FPO	£526.82
Whitchurch PCC (73) – Hall Hire for March 2024 PC Meeting.	FPO	£25.00
Clerk (74) - Salary and Expenses for March 2024.	FPO	£655.50
NALC (75) – Social Media in the Public Sector (3 attendees).	FPO	£156.12
Buckinghamshire Council (76) – Dog Waste Collection 2023-24.	FPO	£630.94
Buckland Landscapes (77) – Grass Cutting of Recreation Ground.	FPO	£3,840.00
TOTAL OF PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL		£5,834.38
Direct Debits		
SSE Swalec (DD11) - Street Lighting for December.		£99.08

Whitchurch Parish Council

SSE Swalec (DD12) - Street Lighting for January.		£99.08
TOTAL OF DD PAYMENTS FOR NOTING SINCE THE FEBRUARY MEETING		£198.16
For Information - Reclaimable Vat from 1 December for 2023/24		£660.69

FIXMYSTREET.COM

This is the website that Buckinghamshire Council recommends you use to report problems, which could be blocked road drains, potholes, broken pavements, signage problems, overgrown foliage etc.

Here is the link <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

If you do need to report anything, then please put as much detail as possible and always upload some photographs. Reports with photographs will get resolved quicker than ones without.